The UN General Assembly has adopted a range of measures to deal with international terrorism, including an annual debate on the issue and adoption of a resolution on Measures to Eliminate Terrorism. Twelve Conventions dealing with specific aspects of terrorism have been adopted. The UN Security Council has adopted resolutions, notably UNSCR 1373, on September 28, 2001 which has put in place a series of mandatory measures, to combat international terrorism.

India's shift from non-aligned stand

1897. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has said that india is a natural ally of US;

(b) if so, whether there is a shift from our non-aligned stand towards NATO and US; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The leaders of both India and the United States have stated that the two countries are natural allies, based on shared democratic values, many common interests and growing opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation on bilateral and international issues.

(b) and (c) India's growing relations with the United States is neither the result of nor has caused any change in the well-established principles of India's foreign policy. India's relations with the United States is also not at the expense of time tested and traditionally close friendship with other countries.

Justification for India's support to American action

1898. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that among the Talibans, a huge chunk of them are actually Pakistanis, sponsored and trained by the America's CIA; and

(b) if so, how it is justifibale that the U.S. is interested to destroy Talibans in Afghanistan for which Government are supporting U.S. actions in Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Government is aware of the antecedents of the Taliban and the strong links that the Taliban has with Pakistan, including with its military forces.

(b) It is widely recognised by the international community that the Taliban harbours Osama Bin Laden and the Al Qaeda network and that they have turned Afghanistan into a centre of terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking. Even before the terrorist attacks in the United States on 11th September, the UN Security Council has adopted resolution calling on the Taliban to hand over the Osama Bin Laden and close down all terrorist training camps and bases.

Government has consistently advocated that terrorism is a global problem that requires a comprehensive international response targeted against terrorism and its sponsors everywhere in the world. It is also well established that the Taliban and the Al Qaeda network have links with terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir. Government's support to the ongoing military campaign against the Taliban and Al Qaeda network in Afghanistan is, therefore, in keeping with India's national interest.

Impact of American war on India and South Asian Region

1899. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken stock of the situation arising out of the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, and its consequences for India and South Asian region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction on the United States utilizing this attack to declare a unilateral war against "Global Terrorism" bye-passing the UN and other international forums to attack on Afghanistan?